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Kearsley Urban District Council



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

1953

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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

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Councillor W. HOLEHOUSE.

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor Mrs. B. E. TAYLOR.

Members :

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„ A. WARD.

„ B. LIGHTBOWN.

„ J. WALKER.

„ T. A. PILKINGTON.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary and Meat Inspector:

F. BROOK, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk : Miss J. HALLAM.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the Kearsley Urban District Council

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year 1953, together with the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

This is the tenth Annual Report for a complete year as your Medical Officer of Health, it has been my privilege to place before you. They have been an interesting ten years, in which many new regulations have come into force to increase the work of a Health Department to the further benefit of the public.

Birth Rate and Infantile Mortality.

During the past ten years there has been a gradual decrease in the Birth Rate, although 1950 reached a surprisingly high level (Table I).

TABLE I

Year	Kearsley Birth Rate	England & Wales Birth Rate	Kearsley Infantile Mortality Rate	England & Wales Infantile Mortality Rate	Kearsley Death Rate	England & Wales Death Rate
1944 ...	21·2	17·6	35·5	46·0	12·8	11·6
1945 ...	17·2	16·1	43·0	46·0	13·0	11·4
1946 ...	18·8	19·1	31·0	43·0	11·1	11·5
1947 ...	21·7	20·5	27·0	41·0	14·0	12·0
1948 ...	20·2	17·9	51·0	34·0	11·3	10·8
1949 ...	16·9	16·7	44·0	32·0	14·1	11·7
1950 ...	31·0	15·8	30·2	29·8	15·9	11·6
1951 ...	15·0	15·5	19·0	29·6	16·2	12·5
1952 ...	14·9	15·3	32·0	27·6	10·7	11·3
1953 ...	15·3	15·5	25·0	26·8	12·7	11·4
Total ...	192·2	170·0	337·7	355·8	131·8	115·8
Average	19·2	17·0	33·7	35·5	13·1	11·5

The Birth Rate was high during the latter war and the immediate post-war years, and this is as past history shows, a normal occurrence. It is definite, however, that the days of large families are gone. This is shown in the Birth Rate for fifty years ago, which was 32.02, and averaged 30.5 for the preceding ten years. The statistics for the years 1894 to 1903 which were published in Dr. Eames' Report of fifty years ago is here reproduced in Table II. and provide interesting comparisons with those of the recent ten years.

TABLE II

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	Births		Total Deaths Registered in the District				Death of Residents Regis- tered in Public Institutions beyond the District	Nett deaths at all ages belonging to the District	
		Number	Rate	Under 1 year of age		At all ages			Number	Rate
				Number	Rate per 1,000 Births Registered	Number	Rate			
1894	8400	267	31·7	35	131	124	14·7		124	14·7
1895	8500	309	36·3	54	174	157	18·4		157	18·4
1896	8500	254	29·8	55	216	180	21·1		180	21·1
1897	9250	274	29·6	42	153	143	15·4		143	15·4
1898	9600	295	30·7	58	196	160	16·6		160	16·6
1899	10000	279	27·9	52	186	162	16·2		162	16·2
1900	10000	287	28·7	53	184	156	15·6	1	157	15·7
1901	9350	254	27·1	58	208	155	16·5	4	159	17·0
1902	9400	294	31·2	46	156	150	15·9	3	153	16·27
1903	9440	301	32·2	57	189	176	18·72	4	180	19·1
Average	9240	281	30·5	51	179	156	16·9		157	17·0

Note the Infantile Mortality Rate for those years, and the present figure for 1953, of 25.

The Death Rate for the past ten years shows little change, but it is a much lower rate than those of 50 years ago.

Causes of Death.

The main causes of death for the recent ten years are shown in Table III.

TABLE III

No. of Deaths	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	4	7	6	2	3	4	2	—	2
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer... ..	16	16	14	11	22	18	23	21	21	23
Heart Disease	28	35	24	59	30	57	52	51	24	22
Coronary Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	12	13	26
Accidents	3	4	6	4	3	4	1	7	1	5
Suicide	3	—	1	1	2	2	1	1	—	1
Pneumonia... ..	1	2	2	5	3	5	3	1	2	3
Bronchitis	6	13	10	7	9	17	12	20	8	12

There is some increase in the Cancer death rate, and Cancer of the lung is more frequent than it was. The cause of lung cancer has been a target for much speculation among the medical profession. Suffice it to say that any continual irritant on a certain part of the body may lead to cancer as evidenced in spinners' cancer and the cancer of the tongue in the days of dry pipe smoking. Tobacco smoke, chimney smoke, and chemical impurities in the air are lung irritants, and the lay public can apportion the blame to whichever cause they think. Proof of any one particular cause is difficult to find.

The deaths in 1951 reached the figure of 172, which was only twice exceeded in the years shown in Table I. The Winter of the latter end of 1950 and the first three months in 1951 was one of exceptional frost. This took its toll of old people and those with chronic chest conditions. The greater portion of the deaths in this year showed that bronchitis or a pneumonia if not always the primary cause was an important contributory condition to death.

The Span of Life.

The deaths in age groups are shown in Table IV.

TABLE IV

Ages	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
0— 5 years	7	7	8	9	13	10	7	3	6	4
6—10 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
11—20 years	2	—	2	2	3	3	—	3	1	—
21—30 years	4	6	3	5	2	1	1	4	—	1
31—40 years	5	6	4	—	3	7	2	2	3	3
41—50 years	11	5	11	3	9	7	6	11	3	9
51—60 years	21	11	15	21	18	15	17	25	17	20
61—65 years	17	13	14	12	19	19	17	16	10	21
66—70 years	20	22	13	17	22	22	28	27	18	22
71—75 years	13	18	18	30	13	25	32	30	24	17
76—80 years	10	19	12	24	9	20	28	23	20	19
81 years +	9	15	11	20	8	21	20	28	11	15
Totals	119	122	112	143	119	150	159	172	113	126

To-day we are living much longer than our grandfathers, indeed than our fathers.

In 1944 those who exceeded three score years and ten numbered 26.1 per cent of the total deaths.

In 1953 this percentage had risen to 40 per cent. Fifty years ago the available figures show that of 180 deaths in 1903, only 31 exceeded the age of 65. (17.2 per cent.).

There are more old people to-day than ever. What we must ensure is that old age should bring with it not a period of want, infirmity and loneliness, but comfort and an interest still in life; a just reward for a life time's toil.

Houses.

There is still a shortage of houses. There are still many people deserving of houses of their own. It would much simplify the work of this Health Department if there were enough houses to permit of the demolition of old property which has been patched up again and again.

Since the war, 32 Cottage Flats, 30 Prefabricated Bungalows and 235 Permanent Houses have been built by the Council, and 31 by private owners. Of the total of 3,479 houses in the Urban District, the Council own 1,232.

Infectious Diseases.

There is little to comment here. Diphtheria is a rare disease nowadays, and this is the seventh year in which the Urban District has been free from this fatal disease of infancy.

This freedom from diphtheria can only be maintained with the immunisation of babies within the first few months of life.

Public Health Department.

The Annual Report which follows, supplies the statistics of the year, which give some indication of the many duties of a Health Department, but little indication of the time and trouble involved. The success of every Public Health administration cannot be shown in terms of monetary gain. The profit lies in the better health and longer life of the community.

Dr. Eames, the Medical Officer of Health of this District fifty years ago, in his Report for the year 1903, says in regard to Public Health, that "much, very much remains to be done." Much has been done and there is still more to do. Has a Public Health Service justified its existence? Look at Table II of fifty years ago; look at to-day's comparable statistics; and there you'll find the answer.

I am, as ever, indebted to the various Chairmen and Members of the Council for help and encouragement during this and the preceding years, and to the Staff of the Health Department for loyal co-operation without which nothing can be achieved.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON,

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

AREA—1,720 statute acres (approx.).

POPULATION—Estimated June, 1953 — 10,500.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

							TOTAL	Males	Females	
Births :										
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	154	77	77
Illegitimate		...	...	...	...	...	7	5	2
Still Births :										
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
							Kearsley	England & Wales		
Birth Rate per 1,000 population						...	...	15.3	15.5
Still Births per 1,000 total births						...	...	24.0	26.8
							TOTAL	Males	Females	
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	126	68	58
							Kearsley	England & Wales		
Death Rate per 1,000 population						...	12.7	11.4		
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth										Nil.
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—										
							TOTAL	Males	Females	
Legitimate		...	...	...	...	...	4	1	3
Illegitimate		...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
							Kearsley	England & Wales		
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births							25.0	26.8		
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:—										
							TOTAL	Males	Females	
Legitimate		...	...	...	...	...	3	1	2
Illegitimate		...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

	TOTAL
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	23
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1953.

Respiratory Tuberculosis	2
Cancer	23
Heart Diseases	48
Other Circulatory Diseases	3
Bronchitis	12
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1
Pneumonia (All Forms)	3
Influenza	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2
Congenital Malformations	1
Suicide	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	12
Diabetes	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2
All other accidents	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11
	<hr/>
TOTAL	126

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following is a list of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year 1953:—

<i>Disease.</i>	No.
Scarlet Fever	35
Whooping Cough	39
Dysentery	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Erysipelas	6

Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	183
Pneumonia (All Forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Cases removed to Hospital from the district:—										
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia (All Forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculosis — Cases notified:—										
Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Non-respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

The treatment of all cases of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council.

FOOD POISONING.

During the year there were no cases of food poisoning reported.

INFANTILE PARALYSIS.

There were no cases of Acute Poliomyelitis reported during the year.

SCARLET FEVER.

Thirty-five cases of Scarlet Fever were reported during the year, sixteen of which were nursed at home. There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA.

For the seventh year in succession there were no cases of diphtheria.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The bacteriological examination of sputum is undertaken by the Lancashire Tuberculosis Committee.

The bacteriological examination of milk samples and water samples and of pathological specimens is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

It is unfortunate to have to record that the Urban District is one of the worst places in the country for atmospheric pollution, particularly for the deposit of total solids. This grit deposit has been a source of trouble for a number of years, and the authority concerned is having to spend very large sums of money to alleviate the nuisance in a plant below modern standards. It can, however, be stated that the officials of the authority concerned have been most helpful and co-operative within their powers to minimise this nuisance, and improvement is occurring, and if not as quick as the residents would wish, it is as speedy as the peculiar circumstances permit.

WATER SUPPLY

The greater part of the water supply to the Urban area is from the Bolton Corporation. This is a direct and constant supply and is sufficient in quantity and quality.

The Irwell Valley Water Board supplies the area of Prestolee and Ringley with a direct and constant supply and this is sufficient in quantity and quality.

There are four houses, with a population of 12, in the outlying district known as Giant’s Seat, dependent on well water, which is not a connected supply.

The following is a summary of the results of bacteriological examinations, chemical analyses, etc., supplied by Bolton Corporation Water Works Department, and Irwell Valley Water Board:—

	Bolton Corporation	Irwell Valley Water Board
No. of bacteriological examinations of raw water	151	16
Results	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory without treatment.
No. of chemical analyses	36	—
Results	Satisfactory	—
Water going into supply where treatment is installed:—		
No. of bacteriological examinations	152	135
Results	Satisfactory	1 only Unsatisfactory
No. of chemical analyses	36	30
Results	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Action taken in respect of any form of contamination	Action not necessary.	All water chlorinated at source.
Liability to plumbo-solvent action	No.	Yes.
Analyses for Plumbo-solvent action	—	135
Results	—	Mainly Satisfactory

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(1)	By the local authority	... ..	18
(2)	By other local authorities	... ..	—
(3)	By other bodies or persons	... ..	5

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	... ..	51
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose		51
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	... ..	—
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purposes		—
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	6
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	45

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:
 Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers 40

3. Action under statutory powers during the year:—

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:									
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs —									
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—									
	(a)	By owners —								
	(b)	By local authority in default of owners ...—								

(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	11
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a)	By owners	10
(b)	By local authority in default of owners ...	—
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(a)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—
4.	Housing Act, 1936 — Part IV — Overcrowding:—	
(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	4
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	5
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	37
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	—
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	—

5. Housing Act, 1949 — Part II — Improvement grants, etc:—

	Schemes of Private Bodies or Individuals.	Schemes of Local Authority.
(a) (i) Number of Schemes submitted,		
(a) By private individuals to Local authority	—	—
(b) By local authority to Ministry	—	—
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	—	—
(b) (i) Number of Schemes approved by Ministry	—	—
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	—	—
(iii) Number of additional separate dwellings to be provided under these Schemes	—	—
(c) Number of additional separate dwellings actually completed during the year	—	—
(d) Any other action taken:— Six houses voluntarily closed by the owners at the request of the Council.		

6. Housing Conditions:—

Approximately 40 per cent., of the houses in Kearsley may be classed as old, 19 per cent. as medium, and 41 per cent. as modern.

There are approximately 400 families in lodgings, which still require housing.

Particulars of any housing scheme:—

- (i) In hand at end of year:—
 - (a) Erection of 26 — 3-bedroomed type houses.
 - (b) Erection of 16 — 2-bedroomed type houses.
- (ii) Contemplated:—
 - Erection of 42 — 2-bedroomed type houses.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

NOTICES.

Fifty preliminary notices and eleven statutory notices were served during the year.

HOUSE REFUSE SCAVENGING.

Statement showing the number of receptacles emptied during the year.

Privy middens	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dry ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	185,507
Pails	...	...	...	...	...	...	193
Total loads removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,371

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at Singing Clough Tip. This method continues to be most satisfactory.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The sanitary accommodation of the district at the end of the year was as follows:—

Fresh water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,688
Waste water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Dry Ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,551
Pails	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Privy middens	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Privy closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Eleven waste water closets have been converted to fresh water closets.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Drainage is partly on the combined and partly on the separate system. The following summary shows how the sewage is dealt with:—

Sewage Works	Method of Treatment
Clammerclough	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Main Outfall, Kearsley Green	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Ringley	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Prestolee	Detritus tanks, aeration tanks, humus tanks and storm tanks.

At Horridge Brook and Unity Brook the sewage is lifted by automatic ejectors into sewers connected with the Main Outfall Works.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The dairies, cowsheds and milkshops have been inspected on twenty-six occasions, and their conditions were satisfactory.

During the year, twenty-four samples of milk were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary, for tubercle bacilli examination. The results of the examinations showed that all the samples were negative.

ICE-CREAM.

Three premises were registered for the sale of ice-cream.

Eighteen samples of ice-cream were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary, for bacteriological examination. Two of the samples were unsatisfactory, but further samples were taken, and the results were then satisfactory.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

During the year, the following food was found to be unfit for human consumption, and was voluntarily surrendered by the owners:—

18 — 7oz. tins luncheon meat.
20 lbs. full cream dried milk.
7 lbs. Apricot pulp.
13 lbs. 10 ozs. cooked ham.
8 lbs. 12 ozs. ham.
11 lbs. 8 ozs. tongue.
216 lbs. beef.
97 lbs. pork.
5 lbs. 12 ozs. fruit salad.
13 lbs. fowl.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

A total of seventy-one samples was taken during the year, forty-two being of milk and the twenty-nine others comprising:—

1 tapioca	1 blanc mange powder
1 table jelly	1 custard powder
1 pancake and Yorkshire pudding mixture.	1 meat pudding, canned
3 dripping	1 pork sausage
1 fish paste	1 frozen lamb's liver
2 sweets	1 bacon
1 saccharin tablets	2 liquid paraffin
2 salt	1 raisins
2 fish, canned	2 currants
1 acid drops	1 Xmas pudding
	1 stoned raisins
	1 Parrish's chemical food.

All the samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine.

FACTORIES, WORKPLACES AND BAKEHOUSES

During the year, twenty-eight visits were paid to factories and work-places, and sixty-one visits to Bakehouses.

The inspections included visits to furniture manufacturers, confectionery manufacturers, motor body builder and garages.

The premises were in a satisfactory condition.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

There were no cases of bed bugs found or reported during the year.

RODENT CONTROL.

One man is engaged solely on this work.

Two sewer maintenance treatments have been carried out during the year, and both sides of the river bank, and fifty-one premises in the Urban District have been disinfested.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

1st January, 1953, to 31st December, 1953.

Visits to Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
„ „ Property under Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	270
„ „ Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
„ „ Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
„ „ Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	112
„ „ Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Interviews with Owners, Builders, Architects, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Inspections of Drains, etc., and Works in Progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	158
General Visits — No nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	879
							<hr/> 1,627 <hr/>

